

County Major Donor and Independent Expenditure Committees – Q&A

2008 Elections

1. *If an individual or business entity becomes a major donor or independent expenditure committee during the late reporting period (16 days before the election), when are reports required to be filed?*

A: A contribution or independent expenditure made during the late reporting period may trigger both qualification as a committee and the late reporting requirement. For example, the Smith Corporation contributes \$10,000 to a ballot measure committee 10 days before the election in which the measure is on the ballot. The corporation must file a late contribution report within 24 hours and a Major Donor/Independent Expenditure Committee Campaign Statement (Form 461) on the next semi-annual filing deadline.

2. *If a major donor/independent expenditure committee filed a statement by July 31 covering the first six months of the year and makes no other contributions or independent expenditures during the second six months of the year, must it file a semi-annual statement by January 31?*

A: No.

3. *Must a state major donor/independent expenditure committee that contributes to a local candidate file pre-election statements in connection with the local election?*

A: No. State major donor/independent expenditure committees do not file pre-election reports regardless of their activity at the local level.

4. *Must a state major donor/independent expenditure committee that makes a late contribution or a late independent expenditure in connection with a local election file a report with the local filing officer?*

A: The late contribution report is filed in the same locations that the major donor/independent expenditure committee files its regular campaign statements. Late independent expenditure reports are filed in the local jurisdiction.

5. *Must a Supplemental Independent Expenditure Report (Form 465) be filed if an independent expenditure supports or opposes multiple candidates?*

A: Yes, but only if \$1,000 or more was expended to support or oppose each candidate in the independent expenditure. A separate Form 465 must be filed for each candidate supported or opposed.

6. *Last year, a business entity contributed to candidates running in a county election and filed reports as a county major donor. This year, the business entity is donating to state candidates. Where are the major donor statements filed this year?*

A: A major donor committee automatically terminates at the end of each calendar year. A prior year's filing requirement does not affect the current year's filing requirement. A major donor making contributions to state candidates files with the Secretary of State, City and County of San Francisco, and the County of Los Angeles.

7. *During the first six months of the year, an individual made contributions in connection with a county election and filed major donor reports in the county. During the second six months, the individual made contributions to candidates for elective state office. Where are the individual's major donor statements filed for the last half of the year?*

A: For the last half of the year, the major donor will file a semi-annual report with the Secretary of State, City and County of San Francisco, and the County of Los Angeles. Because she filed with the county for the first half of the year, she must also file copies of her second semi-annual report with the county if it is different than the counties listed above.